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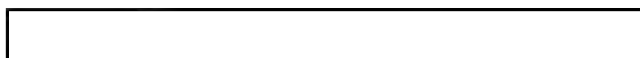


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
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State Department review completed

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Malta-UK: [The proposed reduction of Britain's military force on Malta would have serious economic consequences for the island with possible political repercussions.]

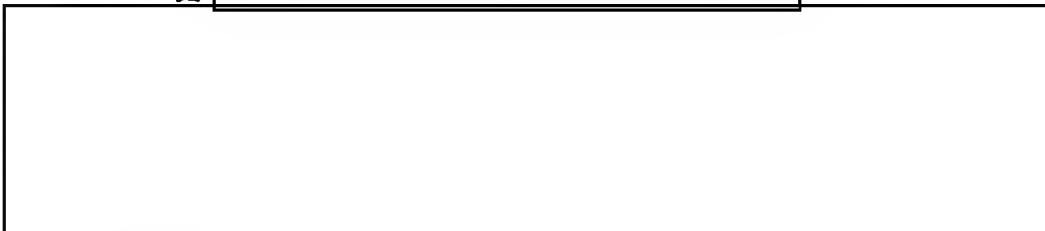
[As part of its recent economic austerity measures, London now plans to cut its Maltese establishment to a small logistics and communications facility by the end of 1969. Britain has been reducing its Mediterranean headquarters on Malta since 1959 and has promised Malta \$142.8 million in development aid between 1964 and 1974 to help create alternate sources of employment.]

[The US ambassador to Malta warns that the accelerated cuts could throw some 4,000-5,000 Maltese out of work long before the economy can absorb them, increasing the island's unemployment from 8 percent to 14 percent of the labor force. Maltese officials have asked the US to provide the necessary jobs--presumably by stationing US forces on the island--and have threatened to seek Soviet economic assistance if Western aid is not forthcoming.]

[Opposition leader Dom Mintoff will probably gain additional support if the reductions occur. He has long argued that Malta is already undercompensated for giving Britain exclusive military rights and claims that he could obtain Communist and neutralist economic assistance.]

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Guyana: [Strong disagreement threatens to cause an open split between the two leaders of the government coalition.]

[During the past week there has been a sharp increase in the conflict between Prime Minister Forbes Burnham and Finance Minister Peter D'Aguiar, who have distrusted each other since they formed a government in late 1964. US Ambassador Carlson reports that Burnham is considering steps to reduce D'Aguiar's authority which would almost certainly lead to the finance minister's resignation. This could in turn jeopardize the coalition base of Burnham's government.]

[Among the specific points of difference are Burnham's frustration upon learning from D'Aguiar that funds are not available for completion of a coastal road which is a favorite project of the prime minister. Other frictions between the two include a lack of agreement over a proposed national security law, charges by D'Aguiar's United Force Party (UF) that Burnham is squandering funds, and a dispute over the composition of a new Amerindian Commission. During a recent cabinet meeting D'Aguiar announced that he would resign if certain appointments made by the government to the Amerindian Commission were not changed.]

[Burnham has hinted that he may ask some ministers to resign to allow a reformation of the cabinet, which now includes three UF members.]

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